Staff appointments to the Surgeon General's Committee on Smoking and Health were announced and led to an interview with the Executive Director designate, Dr. Herman F. Kraybill, in which he expressed his views on the role of cigarette smoking in lung cancer. Balanced editorial comment on the Committee was widespread.

INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
August 27, 1962

Ex-Mariettan will lead smoking study

By BEN TEPLITZ

Dr. Herman F. Kraybill, former Lancaster Countian, will direct what may be one of the nation's most vital medical probes of the times: scientific hearings on tobacco as a health hazard.

Dr. Kraybill, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman B. Kraybill, 21 N. Gay St., Marietta, is a 1932 graduate of Franklin and Marshall College. His appointment, as executive director of the Committee on Smoking and Health, was made by U. S. Surgeon General Luther L. Terry. The probe was ordered by President Kennedy.

Contacted Sunday at his home in Rockville, Md., Dr. Kraybill said current information "definitely suggests tobacco is a health hazard. I make that statement on the basis of numerous reports on the link between smoking and cancer and heart trouble."

DR. HERMAN F. KRAYBILL

Dr. Kraybill admitted he is a daily cigar smoker (but down from eight to two a day) and that his father's farm near Bainbridge "boasts eight acres of tobacco—a good cash crop."

But he noted, too, that a decision to open an inquiry into the effects of smoking "was absolutely necessary." He added it was prompted by a recent British report tieing in cancer and heart disease with smoking.

"Newspapers spurred on our pending week by hugh doses of publicity given to the British study. President Kennedy and the surgeon general then were influenced by Senator Maureen Neuberger, D-Oregon, whose husband died of cancer," said Dr. Kraybill.

Dr. Kraybill added that most American cancer studies to date "are not too definitive in relation to smoking. They largely are b[illegible] on population statistics and o[illegible] research with animals."

NAMING 11-MAN BOARD

His own group will attack the problem by appointing an 11 man board of top-flight scientists, who will analyze world wide reports on smoking, and will contact cancer and research centers in America.

"We will then hold public hearings where researchers will have to defend their medical viewpoints. Following that, we will issue summary findings and a list of recommendations for action," said Dr. Kaylor.

He added he presently foresees these recommendations, based on his past experience: better filters needed for cigarettes; a public shift away from cigarette to cigar and pipe smoking; expanded research in the causes of cancer and heart ailments.

Dr. Kraybill said surveys of medical doctors show they already are changing to cigar and pipe smoking because cigarettes are at least three times more damaging to their health.

"If put on a scale, and rating nonsmokers as 1, then pipe and cigar smokers would rate as 2 and cigarette smokers would be classed 6 or 7 in the amount of damage they do to their heart and lungs," said Dr. Kraybill. He said the difference apparently is caused by stronger chemicals and heat in cigarettes.

Although Dr. Kraybill has some notions of tobacco's effects on health, he emphasized his examining board comprises "men sternly without prejudice in a controversial field."

SELECT PANEL

Difficulty in selecting such a group was pointed up by the fact that all the members had to be jointly approved by agencies such as the American Cancer Society and the Tobacco Research Institute. "To get 11 men we had to go through a list of 150, and that weeding out took nearly a month because of objections to candidates from private and government agencies," explained Dr. Kraybill. The committee will convene in late September and will issue its report in May or June.

Dr. Kraybill, forty-eight, was graduated from Marietta High School in 1932. He played varsity basketball and baseball, and was a member of the English Presbyterian Church.

After graduation from F&M, he earned a master's degree in physical chemistry and a doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Maryland.

During World War II, he was an Army captain, working with nutrition problems. He has done the same for the government and private industry for many years and has written over 70 technical papers.

Currently, he is special assistant at the U. S. Public Health Service's National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Md.

He noted he "quite often makes it up to Lancaster County to visit the folks." His wife, Dorothy Ramsey Kraybill, also is from Marietta. The couple has three children, Linda, Cynthia and David.

"I wanted to take my family to see Marietta's sesquicentennial, but had other business overseas," said Dr. Kraybill, who also is an advisor to the Atomic Energy Commission, had to attend an international conference in London.

1005150581

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/prnk0000